

What is claimed is:

1. An image recording apparatus comprising:
a recording head comprising a plurality of nozzles
for jetting an ink; and
a maintenance unit for performing an maintenance
operation to the nozzles, the maintenance unit comprising
an absorbing member to wipe an ink adhered to the nozzles
and receive an ink residue purged from the nozzles during
the maintenance operation.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the
maintenance unit comprises a drive mechanism for moving
an ink absorbed portion of the absorbing member to a new
position after the absorbing member absorbed the ink.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the
inks is a type of being cured by an irradiation with
light, and the maintenance unit comprises a light
irradiation device for irradiating the ink absorbed in
the absorbing member with light.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the light
irradiation device irradiates a small amount of light of
 1 mJ/cm^2 to 30 mJ/cm^2 .

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the

absorbing member is formed with a high density fiber having a fineness of 0.1 denier or less.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ink has a viscosity of 10 to 500 mPa·s at 25°C and a surface tension of 20 to 40 mN/m.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ink comprises an active energy ray curable compound, and an active energy ray comprises an ultraviolet ray.

8. An image recording apparatus comprising:
a recording head comprising a plurality of nozzles for jetting an ink onto a recording medium; and
a wipe unit provided on at least one of an upstream side and a downstream side of the recording head in a moving direction, the wipe unit comprising an absorbing member for absorbing an ink which was jetted and adhered to a portion other than the recording medium.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a platen for supporting the recording medium, wherein the absorbing member absorbs an ink adhered to the platen.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the wipe unit comprises a drive mechanism for moving an ink

absorbed portion of the absorbing member to a new position after the absorbing member absorbed the ink.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the ink is a type of being cured by an irradiation with light, and the wipe unit comprises a light irradiation device for irradiating the ink absorbed in the absorbing member with light.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the absorbing member is formed with a high density fiber having a fineness of 0.1 denier or less.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the ink has a viscosity of 10 to 500 mPa·s at 25°C and a surface tension of 20 to 40 mN/m.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the ink comprises an active energy ray curable compound, and an active energy ray comprises an ultraviolet ray.

15. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a suction cap in a movable range of the recording head for performing a maintenance of the nozzles by suctioning an ink in the nozzles of the recording head, wherein the absorbing member absorbs an ink adhered to the suction

cap.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the wipe unit comprises a drive mechanism for moving an ink absorbed portion of the absorbing member to a new position after the absorbing member absorbed the ink.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein each of the inks is a type of being cured by an irradiation with light, and the wipe unit comprises a light irradiation device for irradiating the ink absorbed in the absorbing member with light.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the absorbing member is formed with a high density fiber having a fineness of 0.1 denier or less.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ink has a viscosity of 10 to 500 mPa·s at 25°C and a surface tension of 20 to 40 mN/m.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ink comprises an active energy ray curable compound, and an active energy ray comprises an ultraviolet ray.